

Application No. 10/721,308
Amendment Dated May 10, 2006
Attorney Docket No. 1-23791
Reply to Office Action of April 5, 2006

PATENT

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:

Figs. 1 through 5 have been amended to add reference signs P_d , T_{hpa} , and P_{set} . The reference sign F_1 already appears in Figs. 2 through 4 and is not required in Figs. 1 and 5. An additional figure, Fig. 6, has been added to schematically illustrate additional apply and release valves, as recited in Claim 8 (and as was also recited in now cancelled Claim 10). No new matter has been added; support for Fig. 6 is found in the claims as originally filed, and in paragraphs 42 and 43.

Attachment: Replacement sheets (Figs. 1 through 6)

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INTERVIEW SUMMARY

The courtesy of the Examiner in granting Applicant's Attorney, Allen Inks, a telephonic interview on May 4, 2006, is greatly appreciated. During the interview, the Examiner and Applicant's Attorney discussed some proposed amendments to Claim 1; however, no agreement was reached. Applicant's Attorney explained that the phrase "electrically opening" was intended to encompass the act of controlling the electrical control signals to the apply and release valves so as to position the valves at a position that was open "a sufficient amount" to pass the required flow. The Examiner indicated that a clarifying amendment to that effect, submitted after final, would raise new issues and therefore would not be entered.

REMARKS

The Examiner's finding that Claims 3, 4, 6 through 8, 14 through 16, and 18 contain allowable subject matter is gratefully acknowledged. Rejected Claims 1, 2, 5, 9 through 13, and 17 have been cancelled. New Claim 19 includes the salient limitations of Claims 13 and 14.

With respect to the telephone interview between the Examiner and Applicant's Attorney, discussed above, for reasons of cost control only, Applicants decline to file either a request for continued examination or an appeal, even though Applicants continue to maintain that the non-allowed claims are patentable. The non-allowed claims have been cancelled, and the allowable claims or their base claims have been rewritten in independent form so as to put the application in condition for allowance. For those claims for which the only amendment has been to rewrite the claims in independent form, clearly the scope of these claims has not been narrowed, and Applicants continue to assert benefit of the Doctrine of Equivalents for these claims, and any other benefits available under law for all pending claims.

Paragraph 43.5 has been added with specific references to the components illustrated in Fig. 6 which are in addition to the similar components illustrated in Fig.

1. The reference sign *Q* as has been deleted from the specification. The specification has been further amended to correct the informalities addressed by the Examiner in paragraphs 3 and 4 of the Office Action. No new matter has been added by these amendments.

The cancellation of the broader claims in this application necessitates a change in inventorship. Applicants are filing with this Amendment an accompanying Amendment and Petition to correct the inventorship in this application, removing Richard J. Barron as a named inventor, so that only Yuhong Zheng and Danny R. Milot remain as Applicants.

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The application should now be in proper form for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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